

5                   **MEANS AND METHODS FOR MONITORING PROTEASE  
                  INHIBITOR ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY AND GUIDING  
                  THERAPEUTIC DECISIONS IN THE TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS**

**Abstract of the Invention**

10                   This invention relates to antiviral drug  
                  susceptibility and resistance tests to be used in  
                  identifying effective drug regimens for the treatment  
                  of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and  
15                   acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), particularly  
                  treatment regimens including a protease inhibitor. The  
                  invention further relates to the means and methods of  
                  monitoring the clinical progression of HIV infection  
                  and its response to antiretroviral therapy using  
20                   phenotypic or genotypic susceptibility assays.